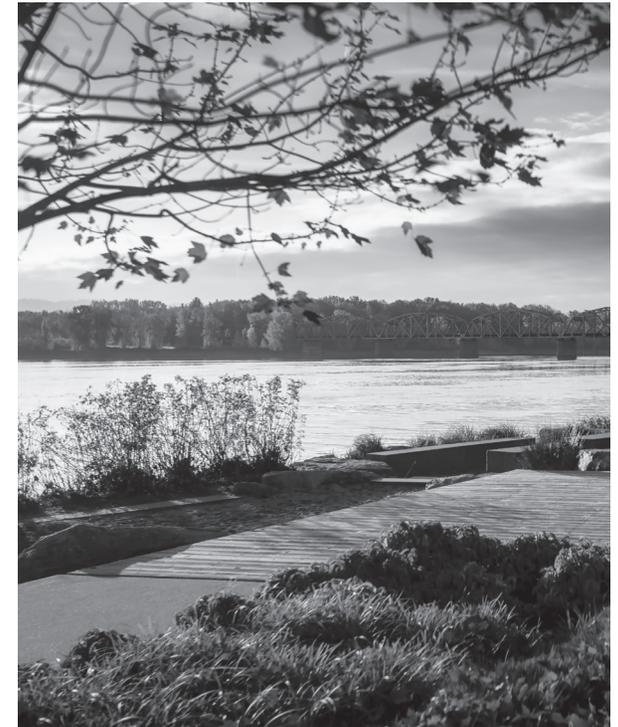


Clark County Official Local

Voters' Pamphlet

February 13, 2024 Special Election
Green Mountain School District Edition



STAY INFORMED

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Published by the
Clark County Auditor's Office

You must *sign and date your return envelope* in order for your ballot to be counted!

- Sign in the signature box that has YOUR name printed on the envelope.
- If you registered to vote online, or when you obtained your driver's license, the signature on your driver's license is the signature in your voter registration record.
- If you are unsure about the signature in your voter registration record, we encourage you to call the Elections Office at 564-397-2345. We can provide a description of the signature you used when you registered to vote.
- Do NOT sign someone else's name, even if you have power of attorney.
- Voting over the phone by having someone else fill out and sign your ballot is against the law. Voters can call us at 564-397-2345 to learn about the options for voting while they are out of town.
- Drop boxes are available if you don't want your ballot or signature to go through the mail.
- Sign up to receive text messages regarding your ballot status. Text the word VOTE to 868392 (VoteWA).

Registering to vote

Registering takes only a few minutes, and you may do it by mail or online at ***VoteWA.gov***.

A Washington driver's license or ID is required to register online. You may also complete a new voter registration form. Contact the Elections Office by mail, email, or phone for more information.

The deadline to receive new voter registrations and voter updates to existing registrations online, by phone or by mail is 5 pm Monday, February 5, 2024.

Lost or damaged ballot?

If you lose your ballot, or it becomes damaged, you can obtain a replacement ballot by contacting the Elections Office.

Clark County Elections Office

Phone 564-397-2345

Relay 711 or 800-833-6341

Email elections@clark.wa.gov

Mailing address

PO Box 8815
Vancouver, WA 98666-8815

Street address

1408 Franklin Street, Vancouver

Green Mountain School District No. 103

Proposition No. 4

Replacement Educational Programs and Operations Levy

The Board of Directors of Green Mountain School District No. 103 adopted Resolution No. 2023-04, concerning this proposition to support current education funding. This proposition would authorize the District to continue funding students' educational needs (including instructional materials, special education and technology) and operational expenses (including essential teachers and staff, and transportation) not funded by the State by replacing an expiring levy with the following excess taxes on all taxable property within the District:

Collection Year	Estimated Levy Rate/\$1,000 Assessed Value	Levy Amount
2025	\$2.25	\$560,000
2026	\$2.25	\$580,000
2027	\$2.25	\$600,000

all as provided in Resolution No. 2023-04. Should this proposition be approved?

To vote, use your official ballot.

EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

This proposition authorizes Green Mountain School District to replace an expiring levy to continue funding students' educational programs and operational expenses that are not fully funded by the State such as certificated and support staff, classroom materials, special education services, technology and transportation. The proposed three-year replacement levy would authorize collection of taxes of a maximum amount of \$560,000 in 2025, \$580,000 in 2026 and \$600,000 in 2027 with an estimated tax levy rate of \$2.25 per \$1,000 of assessed value. Exemptions from taxes may be available, call Clark County Assessor (564) 397-2391.

STATEMENT FOR

The gem of North Clark County, Green Mountain School (GMS), needs your continued support to keep our unique, rural, high performing school operational.

The proposed levy would *replace* the existing levy that will *expire* at the end of 2024. Voting yes for this Educational Programs and Operations (EPO) levy will allow our school district to continue to provide the excellent educational programs our students need. The proposed estimated levy tax rate is \$2.25 per \$1000 of assessed value. Our current, but expiring rate, EPO plus Capital levy, adds up to \$2.84 per \$1000. In 2025, voters will likely experience a decrease in the total amount paid per year.

We, as a community, can be very proud of our district for providing our students the best K-8 education in Clark County. GMS has achieved the Washington School of Distinction award five times. Just one other district in Washington can claim this achievement. Green Mountain School leaders have a long, consistent history of stretching our tax dollars while maintaining a high-quality program for our students. Historically, our district's tax rate has been lower than most local districts. This proposal continues that tradition.

Thank you for your strong support of our district in the past. With the future of our school and students in mind, please support this EPO levy by voting yes.

REBUTTAL OF STATEMENT AGAINST

The Green Mountain School District (GMS) community will vote in February. The McCleary decision resulted in a state school property tax and the legislature chose a formula to disperse this money that does not favor rural schools. The proposed levy allows current educational programs to continue. Staff salary enrichment is not proposed. The GMS School Board has a proven track record for budgeting discipline, transparency and wisdom. Please contact the school or myself with questions.

Statement For and Rebuttal of Statement Against Submitted by:

Hans Schmeusser
Hanss9210@gmail.com

Dawn Shinn
larrydawnshinn@gmail.com

STATEMENT AGAINST

The district found pro committee members but no con committee members. The county had to find someone at the last minute by 12/15/23.

There should be no tax measures on the lowest voter turnout month, February. Taxpayers don't even have their tax bills for the year yet. For a property with a 2023 AV of \$500,000, the owner would be responsible for \$1260 a year for the next 3 years for this one levy.

School districts have forgotten about the McCleary Decision. Taxpayers were told these local school levies would be eliminated as our State School property taxes were increased. But these local school levies were reintroduced and are again spiraling out of control pitting taxpayers in different parts of the state against each other. If anything, these Enrichment Levies are supposed to go towards student enrichment programs only – not staff salary enrichment. Districts should stop blaming sports and music programs for the district's lack of budgeting discipline.

District unions and administrators, in closed meetings, "bargained" away future multiyear taxpayer money without input from taxpayers or legislators. Their compensations are scheduled to continue to increase at faster than inflation rates and now they want local taxpayers to pay the bill. These same districts complain that the "State" is not fully funding education by X%. In reality, these districts are just X% over budget. And these districts are supposed to be teaching students about mathematics and maybe economics and finance? More at: LevyNo.com

REBUTTAL OF STATEMENT FOR

The pro committee's logic and mathematics are incorrect. They are confused with tax rates. Voters are voting on amounts – not future guesstimated rates. Only the county assessor calculates the rates each year. This Not-A-New-Tax Tax is a 40% increase over the previous levy in dollars. These local excessive levies are taxing people out of their homes. State property and state sales taxpayers need to put the brakes on the incessant spending addiction.

Statement Against and Rebuttal of Statement For Submitted by:

Jeff Heckathorn
LevyNo.com

For the complete text of the resolutions, please visit: clark.wa.gov/elections/february-13-2024-special-election
Measure statements are printed exactly as submitted. Clark County Elections does not correct punctuation, grammar, typos or inaccurate information.